



Volunteers @ your library™

During 2002, 120 people volunteered at Lynchburg Public Library for a total of 4,749 hours. This is an increase of nearly 400 hours over 2001. Using dollar-value figures supplied by the Virginia Employment Commission State Data Center, this volunteer time is valued at \$73,087.

Volunteers work in all departments and many volunteers work every week. In Circulation, Lewis Brown volunteers every day cleaning videos and has now volunteered over 3,600 hours. Three volunteers, Barbara Haskins, Wilma Snowden and Estelle Wills clean books once a week. Several volunteers are now shelf-reading every week, which helps to keep the books in order. Mac Mauldin has spent over 360 hours since September

2001 making sure that the adult fiction section is in good order. Linda Mitchell, Sue Allmon, and Tammy Burns regularly shelf-read in other sections of the collection.

In Technical Services, Mary White, one of our first volunteers, works two days a week processing all gift materials. Mary has donated over 2,500 hours since 1995. Other long time volunteers in Technical Services are Audrey Webster with 825 hours, Bob Lightle with 709 hours, and Noel Fugate with 940 hours.

The library's very first volunteer is still active in Youth Services. Betsy Kempf still volunteers every week and has now donated just under 2,500 hours. Another long time volunteer Karen Majewski has volunteered over 550 hours at the Downtown Branch.

The Adult Services Department has had a significant increase in volunteer hours this year. That is largely because of the computer lab, which had 23 volunteers over the year for a total of 368 hours. Also making a significant contribution in time is Doug Small who has taken responsibility for the library's exciting new adult film series. Doug volunteered over 290 hours during 2002. For more information on computer classes or film series, call 847-1566.

If you would like to volunteer at the library, call volunteer coordinator Chris Verilla at 847-1577.

We are beginning the third year of the newsletter @ your library™

...and we would love to hear from you. If you have any comments on the newsletter, positive or negative, please let any staff member know, or contact the editor by email at candice.michalik@lynchburgva.gov. We would like to make the newsletter something you look forward to reading.



LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



2315 Memorial Avenue
Lynchburg, Virginia 24501

LYNCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY



VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 1

www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2003

N • E • W • S • L • E • T • T • E • R

Lynchburg Reads *The Color of Water*

It's time again for Lynchburg's citywide reading program. This year's book is James McBride's *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. This fascinating and superbly written memoir tells the story of James McBride and his mother, a rabbi's daughter. Born in Poland and raised in the South, she fled to Harlem in 1939, married a black man, with whom she founded a Baptist church, and saw her twelve children all graduate from college. Lavishly praised by critics and embraced by millions of readers, this tribute to a remarkable woman is an eloquent exploration of what *family* really means.

Adults will enjoy it. Youth will be inspired by it. It is an excellent book to read together and discuss. The months of March and April will feature several activities for readers of *The Color of Water*. Our schedule is not yet finalized, but here are some highlights. All events are **free** and open to the public.

Book Discussions

Main Library – March 19 at 1 PM
March 31 at 7 PM

Bookends

in Forest – March 12 at 10:30 AM
March 13 at 7 PM

Givens Books – March 13 at 7 PM

Westminster Canterbury – March 25 at 2 PM

Barnes & Noble – March 15 at 1 PM

Family Stories – Frances Webb of Randolph-Macon Woman's College will speak about "Telling Stories: Collecting & Preserving Your Family Folklore." March 25 at 7 PM at the Main Library.

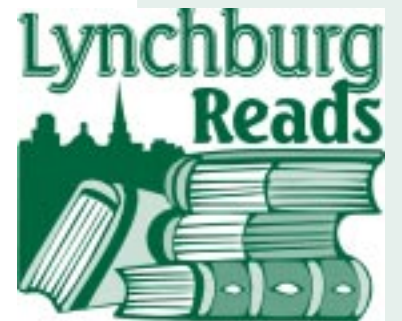
Explore Judaism – Rabbi Gutherz of Agudath Shalom Synagogue will speak on "Ten Questions People Ask about Judaism." April 7 at 1 PM at the Main Library.

James McBride's Appearance – Here's something every reader of the book will not want to miss! Mr. McBride will appear in Smith Hall at Randolph-Macon Woman's College on

Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 PM. Mr. McBride will speak about his family, and afterward his four-piece jazz band will perform. (He is also an award-winning jazz musician.) Don't miss the opportunity to see and hear James McBride in person!

For more information, and for an update on the schedule, call 847-1566. Extra copies of *The Color of Water* are available in both print and audio format. A study guide with short author biography, discussion questions, and suggestions for further reading is available at both libraries and on the library's web page www.lynchburgva.gov/publiclibrary/LynchburgReads.htm

The library is grateful to The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, Frito Lay, The Friends of the Library, Retail Merchants Foundation, Inc., and Randolph-Macon Woman's College for helping to make this year's **Lynchburg Reads** possible.



MAIN LIBRARY

2315 Memorial Ave.
Lynchburg, VA 24501

Circulation, Renewals,
Returns, Library Cards
847-1565

Reference and
Information
847-1566

Youth Services
847-1717

Administration and
Technical Services
847-1577

Volunteer Program
847-1577

DOWNTOWN BRANCH AND LAW LIBRARY

900 Church Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
847-1768

LIBRARY HOURS

Main

Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.
9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Tues., Thurs.
9:30 AM-9:00 PM

Downtown Branch

Mon.- Fri. – 9:30 AM-5:30 PM

Closed

Monday, February 17
for Presidents' Day

Holiday Craft Workshops @ your library™

The Youth Services Department invites children of all ages to participate in our Holiday Craft Workshops. Just bring your imaginations. We provide all of the supplies. If you like to put your creativity to work, these workshops are for you. Join us!

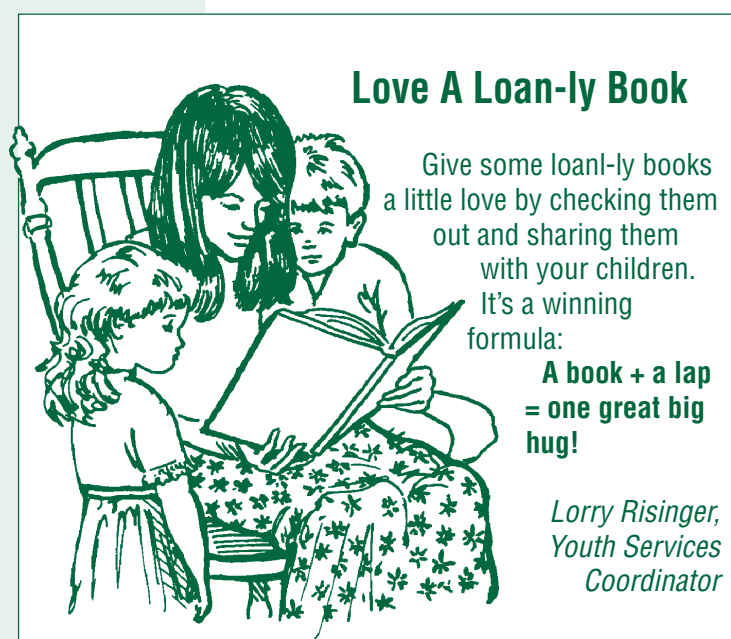
Valentine's, Sat., February 8, 2-4 PM
St. Patrick's, Sat., March 15, 2-4 PM
Spring Break, Wed., April 23, 2-4 PM
Mother's Day, Sat., May 10, 2-4 PM
For more information call 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

Tax Forms @ your library™

Federal tax forms are available again at the Main Library. While we reported in the last newsletter that state forms would not be available due to the state budget situation, we have since learned that there will be a limited number of state forms available. Until we receive these, the reference staff has state forms available for photocopying at 10¢ per page.

Once again, the AARP will be helping people with their taxes. Beginning February 1, AARP tax preparers will be at the Downtown Branch Library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 12:30 and at the Main Library on Fridays and Saturdays from 9:30 to 12:30. Patrons who qualify can have their taxes filed electronically.



Love A Loan-ly Book

Give some loan-ly books a little love by checking them out and sharing them with your children. It's a winning formula:

**A book + a lap
= one great big hug!**

Lorry Risinger,
Youth Services
Coordinator

The Most Important 20 Minutes of Your Day

Every day, make a quiet, restful place for twenty minutes. Put your child in your lap and read a book aloud. In the pages of the book you will find a tiny vacation of privacy and intense love. It costs nothing but twenty minutes and a library card. (Rosemary Wells — renowned children's author.)

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

Bedtime Storytimes @ your library™

Bedtime storytimes resume on February 6. Come join us at 7:00 PM for a fun-filled storytime. Pajamas and favorite stuffed animals are encouraged. February's theme is "Bundle Up! It's Cold Outside!" On March 6, we will meet again to "Flap Your Wings!"

For more information call 847-1717.

Lorry Risinger, Youth Services Coordinator

Darrell Laurant to Speak @ your library™

You've read his columns; now meet him in person! News and Advance columnist and local author Darrell Laurant will speak at the Main Library on Tuesday evening, February 11 at 7 PM in the community room. Mr. Laurant will have his books available for signing after his talk. This is sure to be an entertaining evening for everyone!

Magazines and Newspapers @ your library™

You may have noticed that some of your favorite magazine and/or newspaper subscriptions are not up to date. We are working with our subscription service to solve this problem. In the meantime, please be patient. Magazine donations, always welcome, are even more welcome at this time!

New Fines Policy @ your library™

Effective February 1, 2003, the **maximum outstanding balance** on a library card will be **\$10.00**. Any card with a balance over this amount will be automatically blocked from checking out materials. At the time of annual information update, all outstanding charges must be paid in full.

Circulation Policies @ your library™

As we begin a new year, I thought it might be helpful to share some of the questions and answers we handle on a regular basis at the Circulation Desk. This information refers to items in the **adult collection**.

How many videos can I check out?

Three (3) videos from the adult collection and 3 from the youth services collection may be checked out on a patron's card. This is the total number that can be on a card at any given time.

A reminder: videos have a loan period of 5 days and can not be renewed. The fine rate is \$1.00 per day.

How long can I keep audiocassettes and compact discs (books and music) and how many can I check out?

These items have a loan period of 3 weeks and you may check out a total of 10 combined from these collections.

How many books can I check out and how long can I keep them?

There is a limit of 5 **new** books per library card and they have a loan period of 2 weeks.

There is a limit of 5 non-fiction books **per subject**. For most of these the loan period will be 3 weeks.

Note: If you place a hold on a new book, you may have a longer wait than you had in the past. Due to budget cuts, we have been unable to order as many multiple copies of bestsellers. Also, we have shortened the amount of time we will hold a book on reserve for you by a day or two. If you are notified of a hold and you no longer need it, please let us know so that we may release it to the next person on the list. A special thanks to all of you who already do this!

How much does it cost to replace my library card?

We ask that you present your library card each and every time you want to check out materials. If you have lost or misplaced your card, you can replace it for 50 cents

for the traditional credit card type. We also offer the key chain type card for \$1.00 — this is a fundraiser for The Friends of the Library.

I can't find an overdue item. When should I pay for it?

Please wait until you receive a Billing Notice for the item. We have found that quite often patrons pay for the item and then find it the next day! While we always appreciate our patrons who want to keep their accounts clear, the paperwork involved in issuing refunds for returned "lost-paid" items is not always cost effective. Also, most items have a \$2.50 **non-refundable** processing fee; if you pay for a lost item and then find it, this fee will not be returned to you. The maximum fine is \$2.00 for children's books and \$10.00 for adult books. So in most cases, it is better to wait and make sure you really can't find the item before paying for it because the cost of the item will exceed the maximum fine.

I hope this information is helpful to you and keep those questions coming. Circulation staff members are always ready to assist you!

Ona Turner Dowdy, Circulation Supervisor

I received the fundamentals of my education in school, but that was not enough. My real education, the superstructure, the details, the true architecture, I got out of the public library. For an impoverished child whose family could not afford to buy books, the library was the open door to wonder and achievement, and I can never be sufficiently grateful that I had the wit to charge through that door and make the most of it.

Now, when I read constantly about the way in which library funds are being cut and cut, I can only think that the door is closing and that American society has found one more way to destroy itself.

— I, Asimov. New York: Doubleday, 1994.

Isaac Asimov